

## Brownfields Success Stories in Washington State

### Thea Foss Waterway Tacoma



The Thea Foss Waterway, one of several waterways in Puget Sound's Commencement Bay, sits at the base of downtown Tacoma. Ten years ago, it was the site of urban blight. With collaboration, creativity and a focus on concrete results, it is now a model for contemporary urban redevelopment.

The environmental cleanup involved more than 100 local, state and federal agencies, private business and property owners, Native American tribes, and environmental groups. Community members were instrumental in the planning and design. The cleanup made way for waterfront access, view corridors and mixed-use design along with habitat construction, restoration, and enhancement. Learn more at [www.theafoss.com](http://www.theafoss.com).

### Olympic Sculpture Park Seattle



For many years, this former brownfield was a blighted piece of property at the heart of Seattle's waterfront. Contaminated groundwater flowed from it into Puget Sound.

The remediation and restorative design goes beyond the inspired landscape design and sculpture. Here, form and function work hand in hand. The cleanup and landscape design work together to prevent stormwater migration to subsurface areas that could not be reached for remediation

and roll back stormwater discharge. Project engineers and designers recreated the original topography. Now there's a continuous plane of ground from Western Avenue to the shoreline, which restores views and improves sun angles and pedestrian access.

The Z-shaped path takes visitors through a progression of native plant species and world-class sculpture. Beneath, a specially engineered layer of soil filters rain water, reduces runoff and supports the regrowth of native plants. The shoreline and beach habitat were restored by removing fill debris to expose the original tidelands. Terracing the beach front created pockets of sand beach and tide pools. Learn more at [www.seattleartmuseum.org](http://www.seattleartmuseum.org).

### Rainier Court Seattle



Rainier Court is more than an environmental success story. It is a signature project indicative of a community's will to turn around negativity. Bricks, concrete and steel represent a new beginning, investment and pride. Two significantly contaminated city blocks in Rainier Valley were reengineered to become a seed for community revitalization. Phases I and II of this project resulted in a 2005 national Phoenix Award, EPA's highest brownfield honor. Phases III and IV are next.

The project aims to reclaim 7 acres of contaminated and underutilized land and construct a marquee development that symbolizes progress and provides quality commercial space, affordable housing, pedestrian activity, and density for this community. Learn more at [www.seedseattle.org/econ\\_dev/rainiercourt.html](http://www.seedseattle.org/econ_dev/rainiercourt.html).

## Kendall Yards Spokane



Union Pacific Railroad operated Kendall Yards from 1914 to 1955. It spans 30 city blocks. About \$6.2 million dollars was spent cleaning up the site. Nearly 250,000 tons of soil was removed due to the contamination. Plans for the reuse include townhouses, apartments, condos, shopping plazas and retail space.

The urban redevelopment will connect to the downtown. Located in one of the poorest areas in Spokane County, Kendall Yard's economic impact will come in many ways. It will increase property values, provide valuable jobs and serve as a gateway to the surrounding community. Learn more at [www.kendallyards.com](http://www.kendallyards.com).

## Visitors Center Rosalia



The old Texaco gas station, established in 1923 and located on the corner of Whitman & 6th, was jointly owned by several family members. They had neither the interest nor the resources necessary to make the badly needed improvements to the property. The most daunting hurdle was the necessity for removing the old buried gas tanks that were very likely leaking pollution into the ground.

With the help of EPA money, the old gas station is now an interpretive and informational visitor's center. The center promotes the resources and historical assets of Rosalia and surrounding towns on the Palouse and in Whitman County. It also serves as a multi-use retail outlet and 24-hour public restroom facility. Learn more at [www.rosaliavic.org](http://www.rosaliavic.org).

## Historic Train Depot Morton



The train depot is the last existing structure on the entire Tacoma Eastern system. This rail line ran from Tacoma to Ashford at the gates of Mount Rainier National Park. Its branches radiated outward to serve the communities of McKenna and Morton.

This project served as an impetus for economic revitalization, tourism, downtown revitalization, transportation enhancement, historic preservation and toxics cleanup.



As a new anchor to downtown Morton, the structure will again function as a depot -- this time, for the Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad. The Morton depot also will serve as a transportation hub for Lewis County Transit, host a visitor information center and hold some railroad artifacts for the Historical Society's museum display. Learn more at

<http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/Documents/documents/Fall2005.pdf>.

View more success stories at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/sslocat.htm>.